

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1988

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN. SF. WAS

SUBJ: BRIEFING OF SYG WALDHEIM ON SECOND ROUND OF

CAPETOWN TALKS ON NAMIBIA

REF: CAPETOWN 0969

1. WESTERN FIVE BRIEFED SYG WALDHEIM ON SECOND ROUND OF CAPE

TOWN TALKS ON NAMIBIA ON JUNE 17. UK AGREED TO ACT AS

RAPPORTEUR AND FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THEIR REPORT ON THE

MEETING:

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QUOTE:

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTACT GROUP, INCLUDING THOSE HERE WHO

HAD BEEN IN CAPETOWN, CALLED ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON 17 JUNE

BRIEF HIM ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS ON CAPETOWN. AS PREVIOUSLY

AGREED WITH MY COLLEAGUES I BEGAN BY TAKING THE SECRETARY GENERAL

CAREFULLY THROUGH THE TEXT OF TALKING POINTS SET OUT IN CAPE TOWN TEL NO 352. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF OUR EFFORTS.

2. MCHENRY (US) THEN INDICATED THAT WE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEPS. MCHENRY EMPHASIZED THAT WE NEEDED TO MOVE FAST. IF INDEPENDENCE WAS TO COME BY THE END OF 1978, IT WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT AGREEMENT BE REACHED BEFORE MID SEPTEMBER ON THE ROLE OF THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF TO PERMIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REALISTIC TIME-TABLE. MCHENRY ALSO EMPHASISED THAT THE WHOLE PLAN DEPENDED ON THE ROLE OF THE UN, AS A BALANCE TO, AND A CHECK ON, THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE. NOT UNTIL THERE WAS A CLEAR UN ROLE COULD WE EXPECT THE AFRICANS TO ACQUIESCE IN THE KIND OF APPROACH WHICH WE WERE ADVOCATING. THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF AHTISAARI AS THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. MCHENRY WARNED THAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT STILL BE EXPECTING THE UN AND SWAPO TO REFUSE TO BE INVOLVED IN WHAT COULD BE PRESENTED AS A REASONABLE PROCESS, AND THEREBY GAIN CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL CAPITAL AND SYMPATHY.

3. WALDHEIM ACCEPTED THAT WE NEED TO COORDINATE CLOSELY. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON THE POWERS HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE. HE RECOGNISED THE CASE FOR APPOINTING AHTISAARI WHICH WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA. I EXPLAINED, AS I DID TO BOTHSA IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPE TOWN, THAT AHTISAARI COULD BE SEEN AS WEARING TWO HATS: HE WOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, NOT AS COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA. WALDHEIM ACCEPTED THIS, BUT ASKED IF HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE VETO POWER. WE EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A VIRTUAL VETO POWER, THOUGH THE SOUTH AFRICANS COULD NOT AFFORD TO SPEEL THIS OUT. IT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, WAS SATISFIED, BEFORE ANY LEGISLATION COULD BE ENACTED.

4. WALDHEIM THEN ASKED ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES. WAS THERE A CASE FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO MOVE IN WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICANS MOVE OUT? MCHENRY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAD TO BE OUT BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, AND THAT THERE WERE PROCEDURES TO RESTRAIN THE ROLE OF THOSE FORCES DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. HOWEVER WE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE INTRODUCTION OF UN FORCES, BECAUSE WE HOPED THAT NO OUTSIDE PRESENCE WOULD BE REQUIRED. BUT WE PROPOSED TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER.

5. FARAH (SECRETARY GENERAL'S ADVISER ON AFRICA) COMMENTED THAT

SWAPO REGARDED SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL AS ESSENTIAL. FROM PRESS REPORTS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ENVISAGED BY THE FIVE POWER GROUP, IT SEEMED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS WOULD REMAIN DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, AS WOULD THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES. SWAPO COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS. WE CONTESTED SUCH A VIEW OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS. IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE LINKAGE AND BALANCE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. THERE WOULD NOT BE A CONTINUATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONTROL, IN THAT THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE ALL ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. MOREOVER IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN FACING AN ENTIRE SOUTH AFRICAN APPARATUS. WE HAD MADE CLEAR TO VORSTER THAT THE UN PRESENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE AS NUMEROUS AS THE MANDATE REQUIRED.

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6 FARAH POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN A PROPOSAL MADE 12 YEARS AGO BY BAROODY THAT THERE SHOULD BE A UN/SOUTH AFRICAN CO-ADMINISTRATION. THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED AT BY THE AFRICAN GROUP: THE PRESENT IDEA DID NOT EVEN GO AS FAR AS THE KIND OF PLAN ENVISAGED BY BAROODY. THE AFRICANS AT THE U.N. WHO COULD ONLY GO ON WHAT THEY READ IN THE PRESS, WERE DEVELOPING AN UNFAVOURABLE VIEW OF THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS. MCHENRY SAID THAT WE WERE ALREADY BRIEFING THE AFRICANS, ALTHOUGH IN CAPITALS. (A BRIEFING HAS NOW BEEN ARRANGED HERE FOR THE MORNING OF MONDAY 20 JUNE, ON A BACKGROUND BASIS, TO ENSURE THAT THE PRESS GETS THE BALANCE RIGHT). WE REMINDED FARAH THAT IT HAD BEEN CLEAR FOR YEARS THAT THE JURIDICAL POSITIONS OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON THE ONE SIDE AND OF SWAPO OR THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA ON THE OTHER WERE UTTERLY IRRECONCILABLE. THE FIVE POWER INITIATIVE HAD CONSCIOUSLY AIMED AT SEEKING A MIDDLE-WAY BASED ON THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION RATHER THAN ON THE JURIDICAL POSITIONS.

7. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ASKED FOR MORE TIME TO CONSIDER HIS REACTIONS AND TO GIVE PRELIMINARY THOUGHT TO HOW HE COULD HELP US HE HAS AGREED TO MEET US AGAIN PROBABLY NEXT WEDNESDAY. IN THE MEANTIME WE INTEND TO BRIEF AHTISAAIR ON MONDAY MORNING.

UNQUOTE. YOUNG

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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